तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

Issue No. 153 *Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications*
27 May 2007 *Śrī Padminī Ekādaśī*, 11 *Puruṣottama*, 521 *Gaurābda* Circulation 1,915

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Not a Spectator Sport

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

It is not that we are to enjoy the loving exchanges between Krishna and Radha like spectators at some sports show. We must feel separation from them. The more we feel separation, the more we should understand that we are advancing.

With our material senses, we cannot see Krishna, nor can we even hear his name. We can begin to perceive him when we advance in devotional service. That devotional service begins with the tongue, not the legs, eyes or ears. The tongue must be utilized to chant *hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare, hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare* and to take Krishna *prasādam*.

Thus the tongue has a dual function, and by utilizing it in this way we will realize Krishna. We cannot see Krishna with our material eyes, nor hear about him with material ears, nor touch him with our hands. But if we engage our tongue in his service he will reveal himself, saying, "Here I am."

— *Elevation to Krishna Consciousness*, chapter 5.

The Bhagavata is Understandable Only by Allegiance to Rupa Goswami

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

The *Bhagavata* has built a large number of super-structures on the foundation of the supreme teachings of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-Gītā*. The theory of spontaneous inclination for sense gratification and the theory of renunciation, as given in the *Bhāgavata*, are based on the first and second aphorisms of the Vedanta. *Bhāgavata* is the worshipable object of the free souls and is full of divine stories of Krishna — the supreme lover. Stories of chanting the divine name and transcendental love are narrated in the *Bhāgavata*. The entire life of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the manifestation of *Śrīmad Bhāgavata*. By discussing about Lord Sri Chaitanya and reading *Bhāgavata* I have understood that Sri Krishna is the only worshipable Lord.

The method of devotional service of Sri Chaitanya was propagated by Srila Rupa Goswami, who was non-different from Sri Chaitanya. Therefore the foremost requirement is allegiance to Rupa Goswami. Without being loyal to Sri Rupa Goswami one cannot understand the *Bhāgavata*. By the grace of Sri

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Rupa Goswami I have understood that the lotus feet of Sri Krishna are the supreme requirement and only object of worship. We are the servants of Sri Krishna. Our duty is to serve Krishna. There is no work except Krishna's service, and it is attainable through allegiance to Rupa Goswami. We pay our prostrated obeisances to Srila Rupa Goswami:

ādadānas tṛṇaṁ dantair idaṁ yāce punaḥ punaḥ
śrīmad rūpa-padāmbhoja-dhūliḥ syāṁ janma-janmani

Let not my life be finished without being loyal to Srila Rupa Goswami. My desire is to remain as the feet dust of the lotus feet of Srila Rupa Goswami birth after birth.

— Discourse of 9 September 1935. From *Nectarian* [sic] *Advice of Sri Srimad Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Prabhupad Thakur Regarding Bhagavata.* Published by Sri Nityananda Book Trust, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mission. Visakhapatnam. No date.

A Home for Everyone

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

Interviewer: What do you think is Srila Prabhupada's best quality?

Gour Govinda Swami: Prabhupada is a pure *vaiṣṇava*. All *vaiṣṇava* qualities mentioned in *śāstra* are in him:

kṛpālu, akṛta-droha, satya-sāra sama
nidoṣa, vadānya, mṛdu, śuci, akiñcana

sarvopakāraka, śānta, kṛṣṇaika-śaraṇa
akāma, anīha, sthira, vijita-ṣaḍ-guṇa

mita-bhuk, apramatta, mānada, amānī
gambhīra, karuṇa, maitra, kavi, dakṣa, maunī

Devotees are always merciful, humble, truthful, equal to all, faultless, magnanimous, mild and clean. They are without material possessions, and they perform welfare work for everyone. They are peaceful, surrendered to Krishna and desireless. They are indifferent to material acquisitions and are fixed in devotional service. They completely control the six bad qualities — lust, anger, greed and so forth. They eat only as much as required, and they are not inebriated. They are respectful, grave, compassionate and without false prestige. They are friendly, poetic, expert and silent. *

Srila Prabhupada's heart was bleeding to see the suffering of the *jīvas*. Therefore he came down from Krishna's abode and traveled all over the world to save the fallen souls.

Interviewer: What benefit do we get by celebrating the centennial?

Gour Govinda Swami: There is benefit for the individual and benefit for the masses. *Śāstra* says:

vaiṣṇavera guṇa gāna, korile jīvera trāṇa
suniāche sādhu-guru mukhe

Sādhu-guru says that if you glorify a *vaiṣṇava* then you will be glorified. Glorify Srila Prabhupada, magnify him, spread his teachings, inculcate his teachings, tell others about him, print his books, distribute them throughout the world, and the world will benefit. The pure devotee should be glorified more than the Lord. The Lord will be happy when his pure devotee is glorified.

Spiritual Strength

Interviewer: If we want to make a nice centennial we have to become very Prabhupada-conscious. How can we become strong and all the time think of Prabhupada?

Gour Govinda Swami: If you have love and affection for Prabhupada, if you have love and affection for a *sādhu*, then you will get his mercy, his strength. It is Baladev's *kṛpā*, Baladev's merciful strength, that is manifest in *sad-guru*. His mercy is very powerful, *kṛpā-bala*. If you get it, then you can do wonders with that strength. It is not physical or material strength. It is spiritual strength that comes from such a pure *sādhu*, *vaiṣṇava*.

Interviewer: Many former devotees of ISKCON seem to be forgetting Prabhupada. They have left the association of devotees. We feel that we have to bring all of them back to celebrate Prabhupada's centennial. How can we accomplish this?

Gour Govinda Swami: First we have to ask why they left Prabhupada's movement? What is the reason? If that problem is done away with they will come back. If I state the reason why they left, it will be an unpalatable truth. In his purport to *Bhāgavatam* 5.13.11, Prabhupada said: "The Krishna consciousness movement aims at creating an atmosphere of non-envy. Of course, it is not possible for everyone to become Krishna conscious, but the Krishna consciousness movement can create an exemplary society wherein there is no envy." Prabhupada wanted such an exemplary society where there would be no envy at all, a society of *vaiṣṇavas*, *sādhus*. This is the purpose of Prabhupada. If the pillars of this society acquire all *vaiṣṇava* qualities, if they will be *pukka vaiṣṇavas*, *sādhus*, if they will be non-envious, then they can bring

the others back. The persons who left will see: "Yes, this is the ideal society where there is no envy at all, a *vaiṣṇava* society."

Krishna is all-attractive. His dear devotee is all-attractive. How did Prabhupada attract people throughout the world? He just spoke *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. This *kṛṣṇa-kathā* is non-different from Krishna, so everyone is attracted to it. Do like that and all will be attracted. And those who have left the society because of this enviousness, because some wrong was done to them, if you fix that and they see that it is completely gone, that it is a *pukka vaiṣṇava* society where there is no enviousness, only love and affection, then all will be attracted. If Krishna and *kṛṣṇa-kathā* are present, then they'll definitely come back. Any *jīva* would be attracted. But if the same thing continues to go on, no one will come back. The same thing is going on now. You should first know the reason why they left? If that is not going on now and you can exhibit it, not just theoretically saying it, but exhibiting it practically, then they'll come back.

Interviewer: But Maharaja, even when Prabhupada was here some devotees left. *Māyā* is very strong.

Gour Govinda Swami: Yes, *māyā* is very strong. They left because they couldn't follow Prabhupada's instruction as it is. You should follow *sādhu-guru's* instruction as it is. Don't twist it and don't add any of your deliberation to it. Then you'll get immense spiritual strength. If *sādhu-guru* gives you some instruction and you think, "Yes, Guru Maharaja said this thing, but I may do or not do." Then, finished. You will not get his mercy. You won't have strength. You cannot fight against *māyā*. *Māyā* is so strong. Therefore, Prabhupada said, "Our purpose is to inculcate Krishna consciousness unto one and all. But of course it is not such an easy thing. Still we form this society, and the members of the society should not be envious." That is Prabhupada's purpose. If you fulfill his purpose, then they'll come back.

You may do so many things for show. So many material societies and political groups are there, saying so many big, big things. They produce so many material plans and projects, "Oh, this is the aim. We'll do this thing and that thing." What is the value of making a big show?

Krishna Consciousness

Why did he name this society "Krishna consciousness" and not some other consciousness? This is very significant. To develop complete Krishna consciousness is the perfection of human birth. The supreme consciousness is the Supreme Lord. The *jīvas* are his parts and parcels. There are eight million, four hundred thousand different species of living entities, and their gradually developing consciousness can be classified in one of five levels. These five levels are covered consciousness, shrunken consciousness, budding consciousness, blossoming consciousness, and completely blossoming consciousness. All species other than human beings are classified under two of these levels, namely covered consciousness and shrunken consciousness. They cannot develop Krishna consciousness. They have no opportunity to raise the level of their consciousness. Human birth is a valuable achievement, because humans can raise the level of their consciousness to the highest level of consciousness — complete Krishna consciousness, complete blossoming consciousness. That opportunity is available only for human beings and not for other species.

Prabhupada formed this society for all human beings. It is said, "I made a home where the whole world can be accommodated." But what does that mean?

Interviewer: That everyone would become Krishna conscious.

Gour Govinda Swami: Yes! That is his purpose. He is giving some opportunity, "Come and join this society and raise the level of your consciousness to the highest level of consciousness, complete Krishna consciousness. Be happy. Go back home, back to godhead. No more coming down here, no rebirth, no suffering. This place is *duḥkhālaya*, a miserable platform." That is his purpose. So therefore he named it, "The Society for Krishna Consciousness".

Interviewer: In some places in our society, in the past, there were many devotees in the temple and *saṅkīrtana* was going better than now. Things have now decreased. So, how can we make ISKCON strong?

Gour Govinda Swami: Because *māyā* is very strong, up and down is always there in this material world. Who can solve this problem? Only a leader whom everyone will follow can do so. Only a leader who is a pure devotee can uplift the society. Those who are leading the society should be pure *vaiṣṇavas*, free from *anarthas*. Be a pure *vaiṣṇava*, then perfect

leadership is there. Such persons can lead. They can uplift. They can inspire. This is a question of inspiration. If a devotee comes here and cannot get inspiration, then he will leave. This is the most important thing. This is the responsibility of the leaders. The leaders of the society should understand the reasons why people have left ISKCON, and they should make the necessary adjustments. If the leaders are pure selfless *vaiṣṇavas*, free from *anarthas*, then you will be able to improve ISKCON. If you are sincere, Krishna will raise you to the highest level, then all will be attracted to you. "Oh, he speaks such nice *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. He's a pure devotee." Prabhupada came and he attracted *mlecchas* and *yavanas*, those who were no better than animals, leading the life of dogs and hogs. How did he do it?

Even One True Disciple

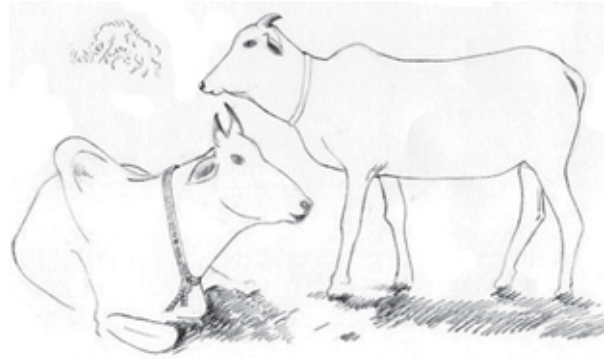
Interviewer: He was a pure *vaiṣṇava*.

Gour Govinda Swami: Prabhupada has such purity. He is a pure devotee. He has such strength. He speaks pure *kṛṣṇa-kathā* that is not different from Krishna. Krishna is all-attractive; therefore everyone is attracted to someone who speaks pure *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. This and only this is the thing required. If you do this then you are the true successor to Prabhupada. You are a real devotee, *sat-śisya*. A true disciple. He will be very happy with you. Prabhupada will think, "Oh, I have made one *sat-śisya* who could do this for me." Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja was a powerful *vaiṣṇava*. There are no such *vaiṣṇavas* nowadays. Just prior to his departure from this planet he called all of his disciples, and said, "No one is my disciple." What does that mean? That means he considered that no one had followed his instruction as it is. They had twisted his instructions and added their own deliberations. Therefore he considered that no one was his disciple. He said, "If I could make just one *sat-śisya* then I would think my guru-ship is successful." Do you understand what he meant? It has a very deep purport. Thousands and thousands of disciples may be there, but if there is just one *sat-śisya* then he can do wonders. He can do everything. He can fulfill the purpose of his guru, the desires of his guru. He will get all the blessings, all the mercy from his guru. He will be empowered. ❀

— *My Revered Spiritual Master*, chapter ten. Gopal Jiu Publications. Bhubaneswar. Orissa. 2007.

All Glories to the Cows

Skanda Purāṇa



agrataḥ santa me gāvo gāvo me santa pṛṣṭataḥ
gāvo me pārśvataḥ santa gavāṁ madhye vasāmy aham

May cows stay in front of me; may cows stay behind me; may cows stay on both sides of me. May I always reside in the midst of cows. ❀

— Quoted in *Hari Bhakti-vilas* 16.252

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

A free bi-monthly service provided by:
Gopal Jiu Publications
c/o Sri Krishna Balarama Mandir
National Highway No. 5, IRC Village
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, 751015
Phone: (0674) 2553250, 2557026
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Gopal Jiu Publications is a branch of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

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